

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-15 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

CEA-01 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB-FIRST PLENARY SESSION

REF: GENEVA 1762

1. SUMMARY: SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD BEGAN ON MARCH 8 WITH GENERAL STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY GENERAL COREA, PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR BRILLANTES INTRODUCING MANILA DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION, AND SPOKESMEN FOR GROUP B, GROUP D AND CHINA. THERE WAS ALSO AN UNSUCCESSFUL BEHIND-THE-SCENES ATTEMPT TO SEAT ANGOLA WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. ADDRESSING THE TDB PLENARY, MARCH 8, COREA SAID THAT UNCTAD IV IS REGARDED WITH A GREAT DEAL OF EXPECTATION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE "DECISIVE STEPS" ON SPECIFIC NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS AT NAIROBI, GOVERNMENTS MUST REGARD UNCTAD IV AS A POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIVE A BREAK-THROUGH
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IN COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT FAILURE TO GRASP

THIS POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY WILL CAUSE A MAJOR SETBACK IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT UNCTAD IV WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IF PROGRESS WERE MADE ON THE FOLLOWING FRONTS: 1) TO ALLEVIATE CERTAIN CRITICAL PROBLEMS, A DECISION MUST BE REACHED ON UNCTAD'S PROPOSED INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES, AND MEASURES MUST ALSO BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH SHORT-TERM FINANCING NEEDS AND THE LONG-TERM DEBT STRUCTURES OF MSAS AND OTHER COUNTRIES; 2) WITH RESPECT TO OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, INITIATIVES MUST BE LAUNCHED WHICH WILL HAVE MORE FAR-REACHING RESULTS IN THE YEARS AHEAD. ON THE INSTITUTIONAL QUESTION, COREA NOTED THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UN RE-STRUCTURING WILL BE WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF UNCTAD IV, WHICH WILL PROVIDE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO ITS WORK.

3. THE SECOND MAJOR SPEECH AT THE TDB PLENARY WAS BRILLANTES' INTRODUCTION OF THE MANILA DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION. STRESSING THAT THIS DOCUMENT WAS THE PRODUCT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE ASIANS, AFRICANS AND LATIN AMERICANS, WHICH ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE CERDS, NIEO AND IDS RESOLUTIONS AND THE DECLARATION FROM DAKAR AND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCES, BRILLANTES URGED THE OTHER GROUPS TO READ AND STUDY IT "WITH THE MAXIMUM OF OBJECTIVITY". BRILLANTES NOTED THAT THE MANILA DOCUMENT EMBODIES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NEW G-77 MEMBERS MALTA AND ROMANIA AND "OUR FRIENDS, THE PLO." HE SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT WAS TO APPRISE THE WORLD COMMUNITY OF THE G-77 POSITION PRIOR TO UNCTAD IV, AND ASKED FOR DCS TO RESPOND TO IT "SO THAT WE CAN FINALIZE PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD IV." BRILLANTES SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ANNEXES 1 AND 2 OF THE DOCUMENT, WHICH CONTAIN RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE G-77 MINISTERIAL MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS, RESPECTIVELY, CONCERNED THE G-77 ALONE AND WERE NOT SUBJECT TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE TDB OR UNCTAD IV. (THE GROUP B SPOKESMAN IN ONE OF THE SUB-GROUPS ESTABLISHED ON MARCH 9 TOOK EXCEPTION TO THIS STATEMENT, NOTING THAT RESOLUTION 1 ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS OF LEGITIMATE CONCERN TO DCS AS WELL.) REFERRING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CIEC, BRILLANTES SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT IT WOULD BE COMPLEMENTARY TO UNCTAD IV, SINCE BOTH MEETINGS WILL HELP IN REACHING AGREEMENTS THAT WILL "REINFORCE INTERDEPENDENCE, EQUALITY, AND MUTUAL RESPECT AMONG ALL COUNTRIES."

4. RESPONDING TO BRILLANTES' SPEECH, GROUP B SPOKESMAN (PUTMAN) SAID THE DCS WOULD ANALYZE THE MANILA DOCUMENT IN A SPIRIT OF OBJECTIVITY, AS BRILLANTES HAD REQUESTED.

REFERRING TO UNCTAD IV AS AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN DELINEATING UNCTAD'S CONTRIBUTION IN FOLLOWING THROUGH ON AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE UNGA 7SS, PUTMAN NOTED THAT THIS PROCESS IS ALSO BEING PURSUED IN A NUMBER OF OTHER FORA SUCH AS THE IMF, IBRD, MTN, IFAD AND THE CIEC. HE SAID THAT A FIRST READING OF THE MANILA DOCUMENT INDICATES THAT IT CONTAINS A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH GROUP B CAN SUPPORT, BUT THAT IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT A NUMBER OF THE PROPOSALS ADVANCED CONTAIN ELEMENTS WHICH CREATE TECHNICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTIES. ACCEPTING THE MANILA DOCUMENT, AMONG OTHERS, AS A BASIS FOR WORK AT THE TDB, PUTMAN CALLED ON ALL DELEGATES TO MAXIMIZE AREA OF COMMON GROUND AND DELINEATE POINTS OF DIFFERENCE IN ORDER TO REFLECT FURTHER ON MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO THESE DIFFERENCES.

5. GROUP D SPOKESMAN PROMISED THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WILL CAREFULLY STUDY MANILA DOCUMENT AND SAID THAT THE STATUS OF UNCTAD SHOULD BE RAISED IN THE UN HIERARCHY SO THAT IT COULD PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN ESTABLISHING COOPERATION ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. CHINESE DELEGATE IN FIERY SPEECH BLASTING SUPERPOWER HEGEMONISTS, PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT FOR MANILA DOCUMENT, STATING THAT IT CONTAINED REASONABLE DEMANDS OF LDCS UPHOLDING PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES. DALE

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